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reminds us of Fr. *je suis venu*, It. *io sono venuto*. Especially the monosyllabic forms of the verb *ire* are replaced by forms from the stems *vadere* and *ambulare*. The beginnings of the French *le livre se vend, la guerre se fait* are seen in expressions such as '*plicavimus nos ad mare*,' and even more forcibly in '*facit se hora quinta*.' The comparative is not yet formed by the use of *plus* or *magis*, and the superlative also still follows the classical model. *Civitas* takes the place of *urbs* and *oppidum*, *sera* that of *vesper* and *vespera*; *infantes* is found for classical *liberi*, *pullus* for *gallus*. Among adjectives *bellus* does not occur, *grandis* appears twenty times over against *magnus* four times; *parvus* has almost wholly disappeared, and in its place are used *modicus*, and *pisinnus*, a word scarcely known in classical Latin. Among prepositions must be noted the disappearance of *ex* as a preposition of place, while it is still used to denote time (*ex ea die*). Greek words introduced are *petra* for *rupes*, (*h*)*eremus* meaning 'wilderness,' *girus* standing for *circulus*. The prototype of Fr. *changer* is found in CAMSEMUS (ultimately from Gr. *καμπτείν*). It deserves to be noted that *cata* is used in a distributive sense without the usual repetition of the noun, a construction demanded by O. Fr. *cheun* (CATA UNUM). The expression *cata mansiones* ('at every station') proves the existence of this construction for a relatively early time. Diminutives are much used, as well as the so-called "verba decomposita." The form *perdiscooperuissent* is perhaps the most interesting in this connection, as it shows four particles, a phenomenon so far unknown. Among compound prepositions we find the interesting forms *deante*, *deforis*, *aforas*. Synonymous particles are repeated pleonastically; as, *tum deinde, ita sic, ac sic*. The latter is highly important, as it has taken the place of older *igitur*, to join two sentences in narrative prose. WÖLFFLIN would see here the type of Prov. *assi*, contrary to DIEZ' derivation from *AEQUE SIC*, and he refers to *acsi* in Boethius, 'Bartsch Chrest. Prov.' 4, 42. *Totum* is adverb of *totus* (*totum ad directum*, cf. Fr. *tout droit*). *Ipse* and *ille* are used interchangeably, both with much of the force of the definite article; and as a matter of fact, in

Sardinia *ipse* rivalled *ille* for a long time. *Transversare* had so far been known only with the meaning 'to knead;' here it occurs in "*vallem transversare habebamus*" (also *ut per medium transversaremus caput ipsius vallis*), and is seen to be a derivative of the adverb *transversus*. The type of Fr. *il y a* seems to exist in the phrase *habebat de eo loco ad montem Dei forsitan quattuor milia*. The preposition *de* and others begin to be employed to express case-relations; cf. *dederunt nobis eulogias* (= *dona*) *id est de pomis* = Fr. *des pommes*. Silvia likes to begin answers to questions with *ecce*; e.g., *requisivi quam longe esset ipe locus. Tunc ait ille sanctus presbiter: ECCE hic est in ducentis passibus*. The use of *quemadmodum* as a conjunction of time leads us to understand how *quomodo* (= Fr. *comme*) could be used in the same way.

WÖLFFLIN'S explanation of such expressions as It. *piano piano*, through combinations like *lente et lente* (> *lente lente*) for older *sensim pedetentimque*, does not seem to be exactly to the point; cf. It. *freddo freddo* and *freddo freddissimo*.

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A Brief History of the German Language, with Five Books of the Nibelungenlied. Edited and annotated by ALBERT M. SELSS, PH. D., M. A., and Professor of German in the University of Dublin; Examiner in the Royal University of Ireland. London: Longmans, Green & Co.

A good history of the German language written in English would certainly supply a decided want. The Germans themselves have never been very successful in popularizing science, so that even in German there is no recent work of this kind equal to several "handbooks" readily accessible to the student of English. Two or three attempts at histories of the German language in English have been made, but they all come very far short of supplying the want. The one above-mentioned is one of the best, but that it is far from good will presently appear. A man may not always know what he can do, but when he undertakes to write a book he certain-

ly deserves censure if he does not provide himself with the latest and best literature of the subject he proposes to treat.

To such censure the author of the present work has certainly laid himself open. One of the first sentences in the book is startling in its inaccuracy. The antiquity of the German language is spoken of as "dating back three thousand years at least, if not twice as far." Any one who has paid attention to the subject knows that even two thousand years ago there was no such thing as a German language as distinguished, say, from English.—P. 12, instead of *waurthan* we should have *wairthan*, and the statement that the practice of using *werden* to form the future dates from the age of LUTHER, is altogether false: *werden*—*infin.* occurs in 'Flecks Flore,' written in the thirteenth century, and in the fifteenth the practice was already common. The same error occurs also, p. 53.—P. 39. "Thus the O.H.G. for 'I salted' was *seisalz* and *sialz*; the perfect of *haltan* was both *hialt* and *heihalt*; *heizzen*, perf. *heihaz* and *hiaz*." Now these reduplicated forms as given never existed in any language, and O.H.G., as we know it, has no reduplicated forms at all (except *teta*), and without the Gothic as a guide the existence of reduplicating verbs in Teutonic might never have been suspected.—P. 45. "*gast*=*guest* (from Gothic *gastei*);" *gastei* should be *gasts*.—P. 48. Speaking of adjectives the author says: "They remained undeclined when they were predicates to *wesen*, 'to be,' etc." Predicate adjectives were frequently declined in M.H.G.—P. 65. "That change [from M.H.G. to N.H.G.] took place toward the close of the Middle Ages, and consisted in the withdrawal of the accent to the root-syllable, and the lengthening of the radical vowels." This also is surprising, for it is well known that one of the characteristics of all the Teutonic dialects as far back as we can trace them was to accent the radical vowel.—P. 73. "The present mode of addressing people with *Sie* in the plural has come into use since the beginning of the present century." If for *present* century the author had said *last* century he would have been quite right.—On the same page the statement is made that *war* (for the older *was*) was not used before LUTHER's time. The truth is that it was in use at least a

century before him. A hasty search shows that *war* is found in HEINRICH DER TEICHNER (before 1400), HUGO VON MONTFORT (died 1423), PETER ESCHENLOER (1456), TEUERDANK (1517), and in many other authors whom Luther could not possibly have influenced.—P. 77. "*Löcken*, a word now obsolete, comes from Gothic *laikan*, 'to skip,' hence *frohlocken*, 'to exult,' and *Lackai* 'lackey.'" In the first place, *löcken* does not come, directly at least, from *laikan*, and it is doubtful whether it is at all related to it: it certainly has nothing to do with *frohlocken*; and to refer *Lakai* to the same etymon is even less acceptable than the suggestion of MÉNAGE, who derived it from Lat. *verna*. It is probably of Arabic origin.—P. 84. "*Schooner* is a corruption of the adj. *schön*." Not at all; *schooner* (better *scooner*) is an Americanism.—Another amusing etymology occurs on p. 88, where *pfennig* is said to come "from *pfanne*, because it was coined in a pan." The author apparently thought that coins were baked like pancakes.—P. 91. "*Schaft* arose out of the Gothic *scaf*, English *ship*." But there is no such Gothic word as *scaf*. There probably was such a word as *skaps*, which would be the required form.—On the same page *eben*, *glatt* and *tief* are said to be participles. It would be interesting to know from what verbs.—P. 92 has another choice bit of etymology: "*heuchlerisch*, from *hauchen*, because hypocrites generally speak in an undertone."—P. 100. "*Ver*, from two Gothic prefixes, (1) *fuirra* (forth); (2) *faur* (before)." This *fuirra* is another word that has no existence save in the author's imagination.—On the same page, *zer* is said to be a compound of *ze* or *zuo* with *ir* or *er*, which is not correct. So far as we know, *zer* is not a compound at all.

Chapters viii and ix, on N.H.G., are the best in the book and contain much useful information, but the remaining sixteen pages, devoted to derivation—a subject that belongs to grammar and not to history—present not a little that is diverting as well as much that is erroneous. On the whole it may be said of DR. SELSS, as was said of a certain annotator of books, that "he loved etymology, not wisely but too well."

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